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one of the most successful on record in our whole land ; and Lott Cary, who, after an approved ministry at Richmond, went to Africa as a missionary and died acting Governor of Liberia, — all three born in bondage, and manifesting genius, ability, moral purity, and religious fervor which would have done honor to the highest stations in the most privileged race. Among the eminent and richly-endowed clergymen of the present century whose lives are here given, are Drs. Chaplin, Bolles, Kendrick, Sharp, and Cone, with Adoniram Judson, than whom our country has produced no man of more vigorous intellect or more commanding energy of will, and George Dana Boardman, Judson's fellow-missionary, whose sweetly fervent spirit reminds one of the Apostle John, and who, wasted by consumption, was borne on a cot-bed, through almost pathless jungle and across swollen streams, to preside at the baptism of a company of native converts, and then on the morrow to pass to his reward. But there is no need of our adding more. Those who have followed Dr. Sprague's labor of love in the preceding volumes may be assured that the promise which they give is more than realized in this ; for, with equal skill on his part, the wider range and greater diversity of subjects deepen and vary for the reader the interest of the work.

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17. — *The Puritans : or The Church, Court, and Parliament of England during the Reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth.* By SAMUEL HOPKINS. In three Volumes. Vol. I. Boston : Gould and Lincoln. 1859. 8vo. pp. 549.

SOME critics say that we ought not to like this book ; but we do like it. We have read it through, and part of it more than once ; and though we thought ourselves familiar with the portion of history which it covers, its personages are to us more lifelike, and its events have more of verisimilitude in our thought, than ever before. The author's attempt is a bold one, and without any respectable modern precedent. He has dramatized the portion of history contained in this volume, developing its incidents for the most part through conversations put into the mouths of its actors. That the ancients did this we very well know, and we admire and thank them for it. We know not what canon of taste should prohibit a modern author from employing this method. Mr. Hopkins's reader sees at first glance that the conversations are imaginary ; and they certainly are in perfect keeping with the characters of the interlocutors. At the same time, there is a precision in dates and facts fully equal to that of the dullest annals. That the work

will have the popular suffrage in its favor, and will attract many readers who could not be induced to read Neal or any of the heavier works that occupy the same ground, we cannot doubt. We are glad, therefore, that such an experiment has been made, and shall take pleasure in announcing and welcoming the appearance of the remaining volumes.

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18. — *The Word of the Spirit to the Church.* Boston: Walker, Wise, & Co. 1859. 16mo. pp. 86.

THE author of this discourse is the Rev. Dr. Cyrus A. Bartol. Its aim is to exhibit the ever-present Spirit of God as the life of the Christian soul, the element of union in the Church Universal, and the interpreter of the Divine Word in nature, conscience, and revelation. It is an earnest plea against worldliness, formalism, rationalism, and extra-Christian spiritualism, and in favor of simplicity in worship, vital faith, and indwelling and outworking piety. It has more than its author's wonted kaleidoscopic beauty of style. No writer of our day, in our judgment, equals him in the typology by which common scenes and trivial incidents are made impressive symbols of great and profound spiritual truths. His style at first sight may seem redundant in illustration and metaphor; but every illustration proves a mine of rich thought, every metaphor presents a new phasis of the truth under discussion. He abounds in digressions; but his digressions are always forays into a fruitful region, and he comes back with enhanced wealth of argument or motive for the position he is enforcing or the duty he is urging. The page is gorgeous and glittering, yet with no tinsel or false gems, but only with a profusion seldom paralleled of diamonds and precious stones. His method is his own; we should not like to see it imitated; it is the spontaneous and natural process of exhibition for one who is equally a keen observer and a deep thinker, and who must incorporate with his profoundest thought every image that meets his eye and every suggestion from without that falls upon his ear.

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19. — *History of the Life and Times of James Madison.* By WILLIAM C. RIVES. Vol. I. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1859. 8vo. pp. 660.

WE have the promise, for our next number, of a full review of this volume, by a contributor amply qualified to do it justice; and we shall

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